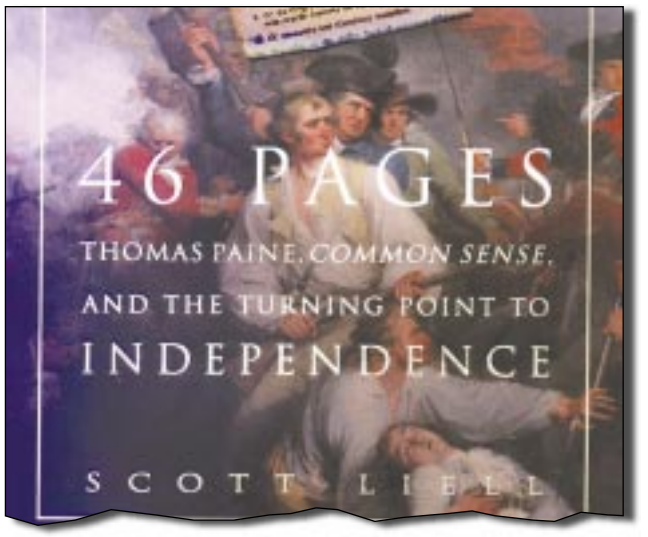
Christmas Gift Catalog



The Powerful Pen of One 'Poor Patriot'

46 Pages: Thomas Paine, Common Sense, & the Turning Point to Independence

By John Tiffany



At the age of 37, a poor and obscure Englishman by the name of Thomas Pain (later changed to Paine) departed for the New World. When Paine first got to these shores, it was on a ship that had been stricken with disease, probably typhus, and he was among the hardest hit. However, back in England he had struck up an acquaintance with Benjamin Franklin, and he had in his possession a letter of introduction from Franklin. As it turned out, this may have saved his life. An American doctor, visiting the quarantined ship in port, brought the unconscious man ashore for intensive care because he had that letter from the highly-respected Franklin.

In his concise new book, Scott Liell gives the reader a nice summary of the life and accomplishments of the great Thomas Paine. The focus, of course, is on the pamphlet *Common Sense*, which Paine himself regarded as his single greatest work, the one he wished especially to be remembered for. But there is a lot more here.

Paine fundamentally changed the way Americans viewed the growing conflict with Britain. Until this fiery patriot came along, even the most fire-eating Whigs (with a couple of exceptions such as the esteemed John Adams) did not desire independence from the mother country. As late as 1775, the American people overwhelmingly were in favor of reconciliation. And they felt that their real enemies were Parliament and the king's ministers, but not King George III himself, who was seen as a sort of "great white father." The conflict at this time was between two contending sections of the British empire, in their view. And some of those who did favor independence from Britain wanted to set up a British-style system of government on this continent, with our own American king and Parliament, which would have done little to ameliorate our lot.

Paine arrived on the scene, published his phenomenal best-selling pamphlet of 46 pages, *Common Sense*, and turned everything around. He argued most persuasively for independence. And he pointed out that the kings of England were merely ruffians or the descendants of ruffians and bastards. He showed that the quondam king had no sympathies whatsoever for his American "children." This gave the patriots a face and a focus for their anger. Also the demand for independence gave our forefathers a meaningful cause for which to fight, even die if need be, and gave foreign powers such as France a reason to support the cause.

Author Liell points out the many remarkable parallels between the lives of Franklin and Paine, as well as implying that Sir Isaac Newton was really the grandfather of the American Revolution. We'll leave that for you to discover (41-42).

Although he certainly struck a powerful chord with his *Common Sense*, Paine was far in advance of his time. He was strongly for women's rights, for example, and definitely felt that black slavery should be abolished.

It can safely be said, that regardless of the greatness of the other Founding Fathers, the independence of America is owed more to Thomas Paine than to any other man.

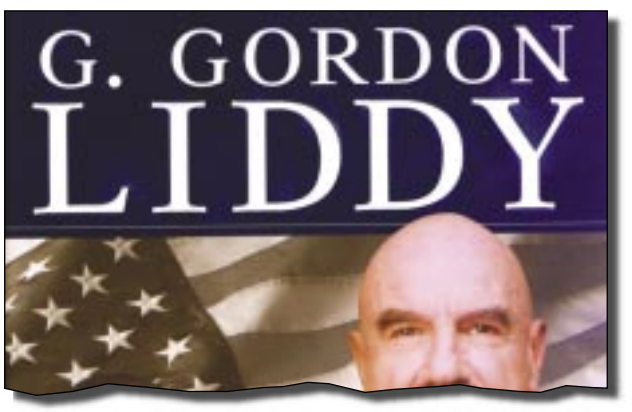
There are very few typos, and these do not create any insurmountable problem. One annoying thing is the unique format of the endnotes, which are not user friendly. All in all, Liell's book is a great read whether you are just getting acquainted with this remarkably little-known Founding Father, who worked tirelessly for the American cause, or whether Paine is, as he should be, an old friend of yours.

***46 Pages: Thomas Paine, Common Sense, and the Turning Point to Independence*, Scott Liell. Running Press, Philadelphia, London. Item # 1097, 174 pages, hardback, $21.95.**

A Man in the Midst of Much Controversy, G. Gordon Liddy Reminisces

When I was a Kid, This Was a Free Country

By John Tiffany



The meatiest part of *When I Was a Kid, This Was a Free Country* is actually an appendix on Watergate. What were the 1972 burglaries really all about? In his fourth book so far, Watergate felon and "conservative" radio talk show host G. Gordon Liddy tells a version of the incident that is totally unlike the establishment history of the scandal that brought down a sitting U.S. president. As you will recall, *Washington Post* reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein are usually hailed as the "heroes" who broke that story. Supposedly they had a source known to the rest of the world only as "Deep Throat," whose identity (if there ever was such a person) has mysteriously never to this day been revealed. Why the need for such secrecy, more than 30 years later, rational historians must wonder. Was "Deep Throat" really the KGB?

Liddy makes a convincing, documented case that the motivation for the burglaries was not at all what the establishment says. It seems obtaining political intelligence was not the objective of the break-ins. We won't spoil Liddy's denouement by telling you here what the real target was.

Liddy also makes some very good points about other aspects of recent history, particularly the military of the United States and how it has been abused by politicians such as George Bush the Elder and Bill Clinton. (Since the book is copyright 2002, he does not discuss George the Younger much, although, being a loyal Republican, he likes the current president.)

Liddy naturally despises Clinton, for reasons he sets forth in indisputable terms. Clinton had no understanding of, or sympathy for, the military servicemen of the United States. This resulted in many foreign policy debacles, as Liddy explains. Bush the Elder was bad in similar ways, kowtowing to the UN instead of standing up for U.S. interests.

Liddy discusses the folly of putting women in the foxholes and on the warships of this nation, and of using the military as guinea pigs for social experimentation.

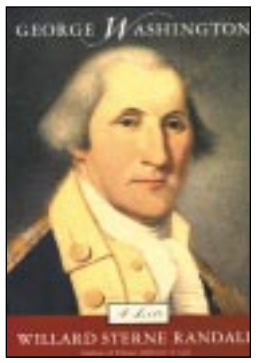
Liddy writes about the America he knew while growing up, a land that has now vanished—the land of the free. He is quite right that we had more freedom in days of yore. Liddy's analysis of America's recent military disasters from Somalia to Kosovo is very enlightening, which makes it all the more puzzling when he concludes, like Dubya himself, that this nation needs to go all around the world, conquering and occupying every maverick nation that supposedly harbors or supports terrorists (but not Israel). On the other hand, he is opposed to having the U.S. Army guard our own country's borders—the only legitimate thing the U.S. Army is for. Although Liddy's opinions are often immature and eccentric, the book still contains a lot of information and is written in an entertaining style.

***When I Was a Kid, This Was a Free Country,* G. Gordon Liddy. Regnery Publishing Inc., Washington, D.C. Item #1098, 236 pages, hardback, $31.95. Special price for AFPRC members: Just $27.95.**

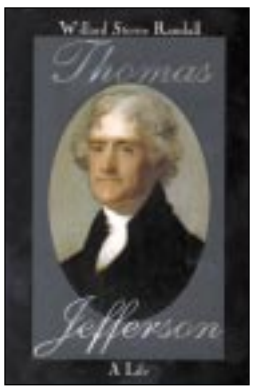
Our Most Popular Items from 2003 . . .

America's Amazing Founding Fathers

George Washington: A Life



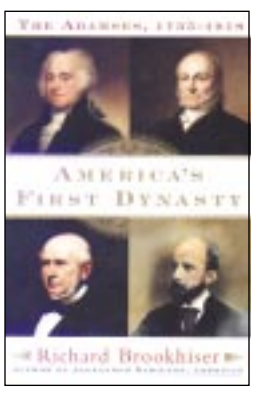
By Willard Sterne Randall. Washington and the war that led to his greatness have remained blurry, obscured by over two centuries of time. Like all great figures, inconsistencies mark the life of Washington and the author delineates them with skill. Washington emerges as a largely self-educated, self-made man, driven to place distance between himself and his mother, driven to acquire western land and amass a fortune—driven to lead men into glorious battle and driven to gain freedom from all forms of oppression. The author examines this larger-than-life figure and rescues him from the myths that entangle him, revealing a very human hero; a most welcome, clear and concise biography of one of the last millennium's greatest men. Softcover, 548 pages, Item #1061, $35. AFPRC discount: Just $30 for members.



Thomas Jefferson: A Life

By Willard Sterne Randall. There has long been need for an authoritative, single-volume biography that captures the public and private man as well as the tumultuous age in which Jefferson lived. This gracefully rendered portrait brilliantly fulfills that need. From stories of Jefferson's youth in colonial Virginia to his final days at Monticello, we encounter a dynamic, thoroughly modern man committed to a search for an authentic and meaningful way of life. Despite his brilliance, the Jefferson revealed in these pages struggles to maintain a balance between two warring personalities: the carefully controlled philosopher and the tortured romantic. We learn why Jefferson, an aristocrat in personal tastes, put his trust in the educated and rural common man, and why he feared the rise of an industrial state. Hardcover, 708 pages, Item #1063, $35. AFPRC discount: Just $30 for AFPRC members.

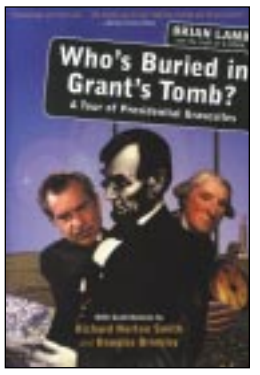
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By Richard Brookhiser. *America's First Dynasty* tells the story of America's longest and still greatest dynasty—the Adamses, the only family in our history to play a leading role in American affairs for nearly two centuries. From John, the self-made, tough-minded lawyer who rose to the highest office in a government he helped create, to John Quincy, the child prodigy who grew up amid foreign royalty, followed his father to the White House, and later reinvented himself as a champion of liberty in Congress; to politician and writer Charles Francis, to Henry, brilliant scholar journalist—the Adamses achieved longer-lasting greatness than any other American family. Hardcover, 244 pages, Item #1045, $28.95. AFPRC discount: Just $25 for AFPRC members.

James Madison: The Puzzling Presidency of One of America's Founding Fathers

By Gary Wills. In this concise and marvelously readable examination of Madison's life and career, the author outlines the confluence of unfortunate circumstances, misplaced temperament and poor judgment that bogged down Madison's presidency. Though a brilliant theoretician and effective legislator and collaborator, he was not a natural leader of men, and the absence of leadership was keenly felt during the War of 1812. Madison had to confront hard issues such as public morale, internal security, relations with Congress and the independence of the military. Though now remembered in part for fleeing D.C. as it was under siege, Madison saw his administration come to a close with his popularity on the rise. For two decades after he left office, Madison remained tightly bound to the political life of the nation, happily playing the role of popular elder statesman. Hardcover, 184 pages, Item #1035, $23. AFPRC just $20.



Who's Buried in Grant's Tomb?

Some presidents have been larger than life, but none has been larger than death. C-SPAN's Brian Lamb has visited the gravesites of every American president in order to create ***Who's Buried in Grant's Tomb?*** With hundreds of photographs and lively evaluations of each president from historian Richard Norton Smith, the book is about the presidents' lives as much as it is about their final resting places. The book's collection of the presidents' last words offers a poignant and sometimes humorous look at the last moments of these great men. Softcover, lots of photos, 236 pages, #1086, $17.

Selected Writings of Teddy Roosevelt



By the time he was 25, the future president of the United States was already a published author. From *The Naval History of the War of 1812* through his four-volume *Winning of the West*, Teddy Roosevelt proved himself a master historian. But readers of his vivid and entertaining books will never make the mistake of labeling him a stodgy academic. The future president was also a great outdoorsman, with such works as *Ranch Life* and the *Hunting Trails* and *African Game Trails* capturing his rough-and-ready lifestyle in his own words. *The Man in the Arena* collects self-contained excerpts from some of his greatest works, including such revealing memoirs as *The Rough Riders*, the *Autobiography* and *Through the Brazilian Wilderness* in an effort to capture the many aspects of a larger than life American. Hardback, 384 pages, #1077, $28.95. American Free Press Readership Council pay just $25.95.

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Jane Fonda, Dan Rather, Al Gore, Ted Kennedy, Jimmy Carter, Jesse Jackson and all the other ultra-liberals who were—and are—always willing to blame America first and defend her enemies as simply "misunderstood." These are the liberals who flocked to Castro's Cuba and called it a paradise, just as a previous generation of liberals visited the Soviet Union and proclaimed it a glorious future. They are the liberals who saw communist Vietnam and Cambodia—in fact communism everywhere—as a generally beneficial force, and blamed America as a gross, blundering giant. But now that the Cold War has been won, these liberals are, amazingly, proud to claim credit for the victory, conveniently forgetting their vicious attacks against Cold Warriors like Ronald Reagan. But syndicated columnist Mona Charen isn't about to let them rewrite history. She holds dozens of famous personalities accountable—and reveals the horrifying crimes that these liberals helped defend and cover up for the communists in this hardhitting work. *Useful Idiots: How Liberals Got it All Wrong in the Cold War & Still Blame America First.* Hardback, 308 pages, item 1091, $32 is available from First Amendment Books, 645 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20003. Discount for AFP Readership Council members: just $27.95 for AFPRC members.



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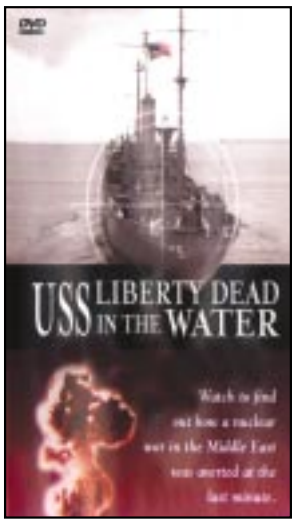
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On June 8, 1967, Israel attacked the *USS Liberty*, a U.S. intelligence gathering ship in international waters. As AFP readers know, Israel claimed it was a mistake. For 36 years survivors of the incident claimed it was intentional. They say Israel knew the identity of the ship and that the U.S. government colluded in the cover-up ever since. But why would Israel attack a ship belonging to its closest ally? *USS Liberty: Dead in the Water* reveals the truth behind the seemingly inexplicable incident—and how nuclear war in the Mideast was avoided only at the last minute. Approximately 69 minutes, VHS or DVD (please specify which you prefer), #1095, $25.

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THIS HANDY DESK RESOURCE gives readers all the pertinent information for every member of the House and Senate for the 108th Congress, First Session, 2003. This includes: websites for congressmen, telephone and fax numbers, date of birth, education, religion, committees, district offices and more. Includes up-to-date photo of each member of House and Senate. This 206-page, spiral-bound booklet, entitled *Congress at Your Fingertips*, also has sections on: the White House, the Cabinet, selected agencies, the Supreme Court and members, the Senate leadership, the House leadership, how to write your congressmen and their staff, state delegations and governors, Senate committees and subcommittees, joint committees, state legislature information, a legislative glossary and a full-color map of Washington, D.C.

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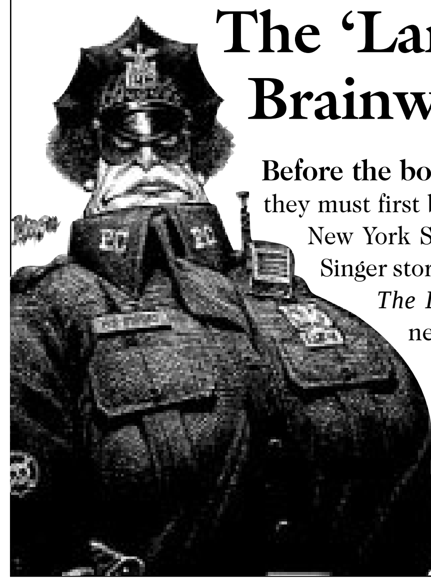
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The 'Language Police' Are Brainwashing Our Students!

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